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STPDTS

SENSITIVE SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: AEMR ASEC CASC KFLO MARR PREL PINR AMGT KV SUBJECT: TFKV01: KOSOVO TASK FORCE SITUATION REPORT NO.

BELGRADE EVACUEES REACH SAFETY

11. (SBU) A convoy of 66 Embassy Belgrade staff and family members reached Zagreb, according to Embassy Zagreb. Embassy Belgrade reports six private American citizens left with the group. A smaller convoy of 21 USAID personnel has arrived in Budapest, according to Embassy Budapest. (Kosovo TF/Embassy Zagreb e-mail, Kosovo TF/Embassy Belgrade e-mail, Kosovo TF/Embassy Budapest telcon)

MITROVICA DEMONSTRATIONS DISPERSE -----

12. (SBU) Approximately 2,000 demonstrators waving Serbian and Russian flags marched in the city, reports the press. The protesters have reportedly dispersed, according to

U.S. Office Pristina. UN police formed a cordon across the main bridge, while a NATO helicopter surveyed the scene. (Kosovo TF/U.S. Office Pristina e-mail, AP)

KOSOVO SERB ROADBLOCK TESTS FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT

13. (SBU) Serb protestors placed two shipping containers on main roads north and west of Mitrovica, reports U.S. Office Pristina. The unmanned roadblocks are intended to test the international community's commitment to maintain freedom of movement throughout Kosovo. Local Serbs promised to remove the containers, but have not done so. (Kosovo TF/U.S. Office Pristina e-mail)

BELGRADE PROTESTER'S BODY IDENTIFIED

14. (SBU) Serbian media claim the burned body found at the chancery was that of a Kosovo Serb, according to Embassy Belgrade. Serbian tabloids accuse American "intelligence services" of deliberately setting fire to the embassy and killing the protester. Separate press reports estimate 150 people were injured in the February 21 violence. (Kosovo TF/Embassy Belgrade e-mail)

SERBIAN GOVERNMENT DIVIDED ON VIOLENCE

15. (U) Serbian Minister for Kosovo Samardzic said the United States was "the main culprit for all the violent acts," report the press, but Serbia's chief prosecutor said he was collecting evidence and rounding up rioters.

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Police have reportedly made 200 arrests. (AP)

MONTENEGRO QUIET, SMALLER DEMONSTRATIONS ELSEWHERE

- 16. (SBU) About 2,000 "pro-Communist" demonstrators marched to U.S. Embassy Athens, reports the press, while 300 protesters marched peacefully in London. Embassy Podgorica reports no additional demonstrations in Montenegro. (Kosovo TF/Podgorica e-mail, AP, BBC)
- 17. (U) Minimize considered. RICE